REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging the claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 and indicating that all certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

Applicants also thank the Examiner for considering the Information Disclosure Statement filed concurrently with the application, and for initialing the reference cited therein, thereby confirming that the cited reference has been considered.

The Examiner has objected to the title as not being descriptive. Applicants have amended the title of the invention to be more clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed. Applicants respectively submit that the amendment to the title overcomes this objection.

The Examiner has objected to the drawings as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4)-(5).

The Examiner has taken the position that the same reference characters have been used to designate different parts in different embodiments. In Fig. 2, Applicants propose changing the reference characters 4, 5, 5a, and 11 to 4′, 5′, 5a′, and 11′, respectively. Submitted herewith is a Request for Approval of Proposed Drawing Corrections. The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge receipt and indicate approval of the proposed drawing corrections, so that corrected formal drawings can be prepared and submitted.

The Examiner has taken the position that reference character 7 is not mentioned in the description. Applicants submit that the specification indicates that reference numeral 7 in

Figures 1 and 2 denotes a shade for making the light source 3 invisible from the outside. *See Specification, Page 9, lines 4-5.*

Claims 5-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 6 and 7 are rejected for their dependency on rejected claim 5.

In particular, the Examiner asserts that claim 5 is indefinite as it is not clear as to the frame of reference for the proposed "front-end portion" of the extension reflector disposed opposite to the front lens. The foregoing amendment to claim 5 is believed to overcome this rejection.

Claims 1, 2, and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Temme et al. (U.S. 6,394,635); claims 3, 4, and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Temme et al.; and claims 1, 5, 6, and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aikawa et al. (U.S. 6,435,702) in view of Temme et al..

Claim 1 discloses a front lens containing a base material having an "anti-static agent disposed within the base material." "Within" is defined as in or into the interior. *See Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary.* A predetermined amount of synthetic resin as the base material is kneaded with the anti-static agent during the manufacturing of the front lens. *See Specification Page 2, line 41 through Page 3, line 8.* The front lens itself has an anti-static function. *See Specification Page 2, 28-29.*

Applicants submit that Temme does not teach or suggest a front lens containing a base material having an "anti-static agent disposed within the base material." Temme teaches the application of a transparent coating to the inner surface of the front lens. *See Col. 1, lines 51-65.*

The coating suggested is a very thin layer of SiO.SiO2(Si2O3), for example, 5 to 100 nm, in particular, 25 to 50 nm. *See Col. 2, lines 1-8.*

Claim 1 requires the anti-static agent to be a material used to form the front lens, not a separate layer that is bonded to the lens as in Temme. This is clear from the language of claim 1 and the specification. *See Specification Page 3, lines 5-15 and lines 37-42.* In addition, claim 9 recites that the anti-static agent disposed within the base material is approximately 2 wt %. This further clarifies the present claim as a front lens molded from a mixture of the base material and the anti-static agent, whereas Temme teaches a coating of anti-static agent applied to the front lens after the front lens is already formed.

The present invention is advantageous in view of the manufacturing process and cost of the front lens. In comparison with a method of providing an antistatic treatment by applying coating (e.g., non-fogging coating) to the surface of the front lens, it is unnecessary to add the step of coating the surface of the front lens during manufacturing of front lenses according to the invention. *See Specification Page 6, lines 6-13.* This results in a cost improvement for the present invention. Tree marks causing a poor external appearance are prevented from being generated on the front lens by adding the antistatic function to the material itself of the front lens and therefore, the quality of vehicle lamps is improved. *See Specification Page 6, lines 20-24.* Also, the antistatic function is added to the base material itself of the front lens, and allows for an improved manufacturing process than that employed for coating a front lens with an antistatic coating to ensure that the molded base material is prevented from being electrically charged when it is removed from the die. Moreover, the invention contributes to reducing costs as not

only the antistatic coating costs but also the material costs are reducible. *See Specification Page 13, line 22 to Page 14, line 5.*

Finally, there is no problem of the coating being degraded and coming off after a long use. Such a phenomenon can be caused by heat and the cyclic temperature changes associated with turning the lamps on and off.

The Examiner acknowledges that Aikawa et al. fails to disclose the front lens containing a base material having an anti-static agent disposed within the base material. *See OA Page 7, Section 8.* As discussed above, Temme does not teach or suggest the anti-static agent disposed within the base material as recited in claim 1.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that Temme and Aikawa, individually or in combination, do not teach or suggest the feature above, and that therefore claim 1 is patentable, and claims 2-9 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

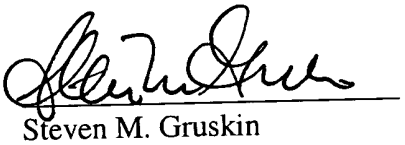
In addition, at least claim 3, 4, and 9 are believed to be separately patentable. Nowhere in Temme or Aikawa is there any disclosure or suggestion for claim 9's recitation of a specific wt % of the anti-static agent. The Examiner's reliance on the "level of ordinary skill" is misplaced, as the references are completely silent about the wt % of the anti-static agent. The same is true with respect to the surface resistance recited in claims 3 and 4. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that at least dependent claims 3, 4, and 9 are separately patentable.

New claim 10 is added to provide more varied protection for the present invention. It is believed to be allowable at least by virtue of its dependency, and is fully supported by the application. *See Page 13, lines 14-21.*

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE TITLE:

The title is changed as follows:

VEHICLE LAMP HAVING ANTI-STATIC AGENT CONTAINED IN BASE MATERIAL FORMING FRONT LENS

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The specification is changed as follows:

Paragraph bridging pages 8 and 9:

In another embodiment of the present invention as shown in Figure 2, the extension reflector 6' of vehicle lamp 1' is formed integrally with the main reflective mirror portion 5a' of a reflective mirror 5'. The remaining construction of the lamp in the embodiment shown in Figure 2 is similar to that of vehicle lamp 1. Of course, the various components and configuration of the lamp in conjunction with the lens of the present invention may be altered without deviating from the scope of the present invention. For example, although the light source 3 in Figs. 1 and 2 is depicted as an H4 bulb, a discharge bulb, for example, may be used instead of the H4 bulb.

Page 9, Paragraph 2:

In the vehicle lamps 1 and 1' thus constructed, the front end portions 6a and 6a' of the respective extension reflectors 6 and 6' are arranged so that they are disposed opposite to each other and close to the side wall surface of the lamp chamber 4 and 4' of the front lens 10 made of

synthetic resin, such as polycarbonate. Consequently, electricity is set readily dischargeable between the extension reflectors 6 and 6' of the front lens 10.

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

5. (Amended) The vehicle lamp according to claim 1, further including a main reflective surface and an extension reflector operable to reflect light from a light source, wherein [a front]an end portion of the extension reflector is disposed opposite to the front lens, and a metal film is provided on the extension reflector.